

The New Church for the New Day

Inter-Church
World Movement of
North America

By Fred B. Smith

THE INTER-CHURCH World Movement of North America as a whole is undertaken in response to a wide-spread feeling which has manifested itself in partial movements in sections of the country, in the Federal Council of the churches, and in the Mission Boards, home and foreign, that the combined churches should undertake a program which would include nothing less than a complete evangelization of all of life.

The campaign is launched,

FIRST: In recognition of the fact that the Christian Church is the repository of the only truth which can hope to produce for all the world an "enduring peace." Millions cry for some safeguard that will be ample for generations to come.

In full sympathy with the value of "Leagues of Nations," "Treaties," and "Parliamentary Agreements," the Christian church is absolutely certain they will all fail except they be leavened by the truth and spirit of Christ. It is obvious

that so overwhelming a responsibility as an adequate declaration of this truth, can be fully met only by the impact of the whole Christian Church.

This campaign offers a program more complete and compelling than anything yet proposed to demonstrate the pre-eminence of the church as the indispensable agency to fulfill this world hope for an abiding universal brotherhood of good will.

SECOND: It is undertaken further in recognition of the peculiar stewardship of America in this hour of world crisis. This nation emerges from the war with a maximum of glory at a minimum of sacrifice. Its soil has not been devastated; its resources have not been impoverished; its homes have not suffered as have those of its allies; its man and woman power is practically intact; its vision has not dimmed.

The nation must not fail in the supreme opportunity of a world wide contribution in the sphere of moral and spiritual power, based upon the essential truths of Jesus Christ.

This cannot be done adequately by unrelated churches and organizations. From the smallest community to the largest city, some form of united expression is fundamental if all the power of the Christian Church is to be brought to bear.

The campaign offers a commanding opportunity for prompt action in securing this result.

THIRD: In planning the program due recognition is given of the nation's unparalleled generosity during the war period which gave ample proof that the people are not found wanting when confronted with a great task and that therefore they will respond fully and gladly if the United Protestant forces will present their whole need expressed in terms of organization, life and money.

The campaign opens a way to work out such a complete program and submit it to the people, calling for an even greater demonstration of sacrificial giving than has yet been witnessed in the history of the Christian Church.

FOURTH: The program to be undertaken offers an open forum to all where common church problems, opportunities and difficulties may be dealt with, serious effort made to remove misunderstandings, to promptly discuss and meet criticisms and to make wiser plans for the future.

FIFTH: There is a growing conviction that the larger program of the church in the new order will demand more and more attention to community problems rather than to parish tasks alone and that unless some advanced method is

made available, many of the most important Christian responsibilities will be neglected.

The movement will give a superb opportunity throughout the nation to make known the underlying principles of successful inter-church movements and make possible their organization where they do not now exist.

In the process, knowledge will be given of the large degree of unity which already exists among the churches and cooperating organizations as well as to reveal the greater degree of unity so earnestly desired by all of them.

SIXTH: The campaign is undertaken, in recognition of the peculiar opportunities and difficulties which now confront the Church. The era of the Great War has called forth an expression of benevolence in physical care and welfare beyond anything ever witnessed in history, all of which is highly commended by all good thinking people—and yet it creates a possibility of evil not only to all Christian churches, but to all people everywhere if it is permitted to become a substitute for strong, progressive, evangelical, evangelistic Christianity.

The special effort proposed gives proper facilities for the reassertion of this fundamental ideal of the Christian religion.

SEVENTH: The Campaign lifts into the largest possible prominence the added responsibilities of all churches and Christian organizations during the period of demobilizing the Army and Navy.

It is the belief of those related to this special problem that the influence for good by proper effort upon the part of the churches during this time may be more far reaching than any other twenty years of history. As these young men pass back through the channels through which they were called to the colors, they must be made to feel the love and strength of allied Christianity.

Inside of a few weeks there will be commenced the organization of the "VETERANS OF THE GREAT WAR."

Eventually its influence upon the young life at home cannot be fully estimated. It will pervade everything. Nothing less than some form of unified, community, Christian approach will meet this obligation.

The suggested program is planned to meet, as far as possible, this emergency. Every community of the nation will be urged to plan at once for this immediate task, and organize some form of inter-church committee.

EIGHTH: Permeating all else, the campaign recognizes the imperative and unparalleled priv-

ilege of the present hour for the undertaking of an adequate world Missionary program.

The world war bursting with hitherto unknown fury in the midst of a boasted era of progress in education and peace conferences, has compelled a fresh consideration of the fundamental elements in an enduring civilization. It is the belief of the Church that the Christian faith is the adequate universal religion, which the world needs.

The non-Christian world has been ripened by the experiences of war for larger occupation, but the fields will be harvested by alien forces unless the Christian churches make prompt, complete plans, worthy of the hour.

